

What is claimed is:

1. A key input device comprising:
2 key input means for inputting characters by
3 key input in a plurality of character input modes;
4 switching means for switching a plurality of
5 character input modes;
6 a key backlight which is placed on a lower
7 surface of said key input means and is lighted in a
8 plurality of colors; and
9 lighting control means for changing a lighting
10 color of said key backlight in accordance with switching
11 of character input modes.

2. A device according to claim 1, wherein
2 said key input means comprises a plurality of
3 keys,
4 said key backlight comprises light-emitting
5 means located at lower surfaces of the respective keys,
6 and
7 said lighting control means changes a lighting
8 color of only the light-emitting means located at the
9 lower surface of a key which can be used for character
10 input operation in a set character input mode.

3. A device according to claim 1, wherein
2 said device further comprises storage means

3 for storing correspondence data between a plurality of
4 character input modes and a plurality of colors, and
5 when a signal indicating that a character
6 input mode is switched is input from said key input
7 means, said key backlight lighting control means
8 determines a lighting color of said key backlight by
9 referring to said storage means.

4. A device according to claim 3, wherein
2 said storage means comprises first storage
3 means which cannot be overwritten, and
4 the correspondence data is stored as an
5 initial setting value in the first storage means.

5. A device according to claim 4, wherein
2 said storage means comprises second storage
3 means which can be overwritten, and
4 said key backlight lighting control means
5 writes the correspondence data as a user setting value
6 in the second storage means.

6. A device according to claim 5, wherein said
2 key backlight lighting control means preferentially
3 refers to a user setting value when the user setting
4 value is stored.

7. A device according to claim 3, wherein

2 said storage means further comprises key
3 backlight application setting lighting color data for
4 setting a lighting color of said key backlight, and key
5 backlight application setting lighting position data for
6 setting a lighting position of said key backlight, and
7 said key backlight lighting control means
8 determines a lighting color of said key backlight by
9 referring to at least one of key backlight application
10 setting lighting color data and key backlight
11 application setting lighting position data.

8. A device according to claim 7, wherein said
2 key backlight lighting control means downloads key
3 backlight application setting lighting color data and
4 key backlight application setting lighting position data.

9. A cell phone comprising a key input device
2 defined in claim 1.